

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-11. **(Cancelled)**

12. **(Original)** A method for producing a pharmaceutical formulation for controlled release of an interferon, the method comprising:

dissolving (a) a biodegradable polymer and (b) a conjugate of an interferon and a hydrophilic polymer in a solvent to form a monophasic, and

forming microparticles or nanoparticles comprising the biodegradable polymer encapsulating the conjugate.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 12, wherein the interferon is selected from the group consisting of alpha-interferon, beta-interferon, and gamma-interferon.

14. **(Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical formulation for controlled release of an interferon, the formulation comprising a biodegradable polymer in combination with a conjugate of an interferon and a hydrophilic polymer, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a derivatized biodegradable polymer containing hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions, and wherein the interferon is selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ -interferon,  $\beta$ -interferon, and  $\gamma$ -interferon.

15. **(Original)** The formulation of claim 14, wherein the hydrophilic region comprises polyethylene glycol.

16. **(Original)** The formulation of claim 14, wherein the hydrophobic region comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyhydroxy acids, polylactic acids, polyglycolic acids, and copolymers thereof.

17-18. **(Cancelled)**

19. **(Original)** A pharmaceutical formulation for controlled release of a bioactive molecule, the formulation comprising a biodegradable polymer in combination with a conjugate of a bioactive molecule and a hydrophilic polymer, wherein the formulation is in the form of microparticles encapsulating the conjugate, the microparticles having a diameter predominantly between 20 and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

20. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 19, wherein the bioactive molecule is a protein.

21-23. **(Cancelled)**

24. **(Previously presented)** The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 19, wherein the bioactive molecule is insulin,  $\alpha$ -interferon,  $\beta$ -interferon, or  $\gamma$ -interferon.